



PHOTOGRAPHY/ ROBERT RICE

Corey Child, left, and Bob Weston climb to the 11,500-foot level on the west side of Mount Timpanogos.

Sky's the limit for Utah climbers

■ **Training:** Two-week stint on Timpanogos prepares team for '92 assault on Everest.

By Robert Rice
Deseret News staff writer

MOUNT TIMPANOGOS, Utah County — A Utah climbing team descended from the top of Utah County Monday where it rang in the new year preparing for an expedition it hopes will lead it to the top of the world in 1992.

Utahns on Everest, a 10-member climbing team lead by mountaineer Douglas S. Hansen, wants to place a Utahn on the summit of 29,028-foot-high Mount Everest in the Himalayan Mountains — the highest point on Earth.

But since Edmund Hillary made Everest's summit in 1953, only 200 others have done the same — while many have died trying. So Utahns on Everest is carefully preparing for its two-month ascent of the mountain.

Since Jan. 1, Utahns on Everest maintained a precarious camp at the 11,500-foot-level on the west side of Mount Timpanogos — a logistical dress-rehearsal of



Corey Child, left, and Bob Weston prepare camp on Timpanogos.

what the team can expect during its Everest expedition.

"It's really a good logistical shakedown in as severe a winter climate as Utah can provide," said team member Bob Weston, who is also responsible for drumming up

corporate support for the \$500,000 expedition.

Save for one night, the team kept climbers on a narrow ridge in the shadow of Tim-

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EVEREST

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panogos' 11,750-foot summit for two weeks, rotating members and shutting equipment periodically up the mountain from low-elevation caches.

"Keeping someone here for two weeks has been a hassle," Dr. Keith Hooker, team doctor, said this week, and while melting snow into cooking water inside one of the expedition tents.

Team members carried hundreds of pounds of food, stove fuel, climbing gear, radio equipment and other material up 6,000-vertical feet of ice and rock through weather ranging from pleasantly sunny to dangerously severe.

Team members reported they have learned valuable lessons only a few short miles from their homes in Orem and Provo about living in winter alpine conditions for a long time.

"Communications have been interesting, and we've learned a lot about our meals... it's been a good lesson for us," said Corey Child, the team's public relations director.

Utahns on Everest kept close contact with Hansen, at Hansen Mountaineering Inc. in Orem, via radio and cellular phone, and even occasionally contributed to a Salt Lake television station's live weather forecasts.

The team wants to continue keeping close contact with fellow Utahns. Child called the expedition a community effort and said the team hopes to raise much of the expedition's cost via individual donations from Utahns.

"Our success will reflect the state's success," Child said.

Gov. Norm Bangert signed a proclamation in support of the expedition, and some team members already have been on the informal lecture circuit describing the team's plans and promoting mountain safety throughout Utah.

The team, which won a permit from the Chinese Mountaineering Association to climb Everest's north face from the Chinese side, also has gotten support from W.L. Gore & Associates to provide Gore-tex climbing suits, Weston said.

By 1992, the team hopes to have up to 15 more members to provide support on the mountain and to have successfully climbed several other major North American and Asian peaks in preparation for Everest.

Since the team first assembled in 1987, Utahns on Everest has trained on glacier-ridden Mount Ranier in Washington, Orizaba, a 18,700-foot snow-capped volcano in Mexico and elsewhere. The group also hopes to have climbed Mount McKinley in Alaska and a major Himalayan peak by 1992.

Hooker described the team as a

close-knit, compatible group of climbers — qualities that will be greater assets during their assault on Everest than their technical, mountaineering skills.

"We don't have any red-hot climbers... so what we're counting on is the synergy of the group," said Hooker, immediate past director of the emergency room at Utah Valley Regional Medical Center.

Everest — known in the Himalayas as Chomolungma, or Goddess Mother of the snow — commands respect among members of Utahns on Everest.

"I think there are mountains that are more deadly, and Everest isn't technically a big-time climb," Hooker said, "but it's the ultimate."

Still, the group puts caution at the top of its list of mountain priorities, saying a single death will render the expedition a failure even if they make the summit.

"Everest is a very double mountain. If it wasn't, we wouldn't be involved," Hooker said.

But climbing Everest's icy faces, avalanche-choked crevasses and wind-tipped summit won't be the team's only challenge. With other Utah organizations, such as the 1988 Winter Olympics movement, begging for Utah donations, Utahns on Everest faces great odds funding its project.

"We face a lot of challenges but we think we can do it," Weston said.

DANCE REVIEW

'Legend of Timpanogos' ballet is stunning

By Dorothy Stowe
Deseret News dance critic

THE LEGEND OF TIMPANOGOS, Utah Regional Ballet, Harris Fine Arts Center, Brigham Young University, Wednesday through Friday, May 20-22, 7:30 p.m.

The Utah Regional Ballet and its choreographer/artistic director Jacqueline Colledge again prove that they know what ballet is all about with their production of "The Legend of Timpanogos" — well-conceived, beautifully danced, authentically costumed and stunningly set and lighted. The production well deserves its place on the BYU community concert se-

ries and its standing ovation.

Indeed, many a professional company would be pleased to have a production so beautiful on its roster. Doeskin costumes by Sara Price look authentic with their beading, each one a little different, nothing overdone. Bill Kirkpatrick's scenery is equally beautiful — typical American Fork Canyon with its autumn leaves and aspen trees and lighting by Michael Handley is excellent.

The final scene is a triumph of lighting and projections, showing Mount Timpanogos in all its glory and the white-clad lovers finally taking eternal refuge in the "Heart of Timpanogos."

Michael Babbitt's electronic score has a new-age sound that pleasantly supports the dance. Though not especially Indian in character, it serves its purpose and has moving lyricism and melody when most needed.

The Indian legend of the sleeping woman atop Mount Timpanogos, very real and present to Utah Valley dwellers, is brought to life: The maiden Ucanogos loved the strange brave, Timpanac — a love resented by the braves of her tribe, who killed him. Ucanogos died of grief, and her body lies forever on the mountain.

Colledge has put the dance together with skill and commendable

variety, her tasteful choreography guided by understated modesty and simplicity, never going beyond the dignity and restraint that you feel would be natural to the race and the situation, yet never losing interest.

A large corps of Indian maidens express youthful joy and rally round the beset Ucanogos. They are showcased in trios, quartets, solos and building ensembles.

Michael Onstad lends aristocratic presence as the old chief.

The braves are indeed a threatening lot, menacing Timpanac in strong and daring dance, led by exciting guest artist Joseph Woelfel as Red Feather. It is a little anticlimactic not to see the final battle and death of Timpanac on stage, though it is well-reflected in the tense backs of those watching below.

As the warrior Timpanac, Ballet West's Richard Bradley offers a sympathetic characterization and some excellent dancing in the leap-

ing, spinning and lifting figures assigned to him.

He's storybook authentic in this role, as is his partner, strong and graceful Heather Colledge as Ucanogos. Their pas de deux are technically exciting, illuminated by touching devotion and finally quite radiant in the apotheosis.

Jacqueline Colledge continues to show the role that a good regional youth company can fulfill, with its excellent training, opportunities to perform and pursuit of excellence.

Spring snow



Herald Photo/Jennifer Smith

Fresh snow covered the Timpooneke Campground and surrounding peaks on the Alpine Loop Monday, as a cold front moved along the Wasatch Front dropping snow down to the 7,000-foot mark. More precipitation was forecast today.

Neighbors

Former Provoan says Timpanogos hike holds memory

By JOSEPHINE ZIMMERMAN
Herald Staff Writer

PROVO — When Rusty Gower drives through Provo, he looks up at Mt. Timpanogos and recalls the cold, cold climb he made with his father when he was only 9 years old.

It was approximately 1929 when his father decided to make the hike.

In those days, the annual Timpanogos Hike was a big event. In 1927, the Evening Herald, predecessor to *The Daily Herald*, ran a bold banner across the front page stating, "Enthusiasm for Timpanogos Hike Soars."

In 1927, the Provo Chamber of Commerce and Provo Kiwanis Club arranged an evening program at Aspen Grove, and the Nephi Kiwanis Club arrived in a caravan. The Evening Herald advised people to leave for the canyon at an early hour "since the afternoon is likely to find trans-

portation difficult on account of the immense crowds."

Two years later, Rusty, now a resident of Thatcher, Arizona, arrived at Aspen Grove with his father and older brother and prepared for the big hike.

He remembers how terribly cold the evening was.

"We left Aspen Grove in the evening and climbed most of the night, but the moonlight was bright so we could see our way," he recalls.

He said they passed many people on the trail who gave up because of the cold and turned back. His older brother also returned to Aspen Grove, but he and his father kept going.

They climbed up the glacier, "and it wasn't too bad, but the last 50 yards were almost perpendicular."

"Dad gripped the rocks and ice with his hands and pulled me up on his back."

When the duo finally reached

the top after a harrowing climb up the last stretch, they found only about 6 or 7 people had reached the summit.

"It was bitter cold, but we stayed until sunrise, waiting for someone to come up and take our names and award us our medallions," he said.

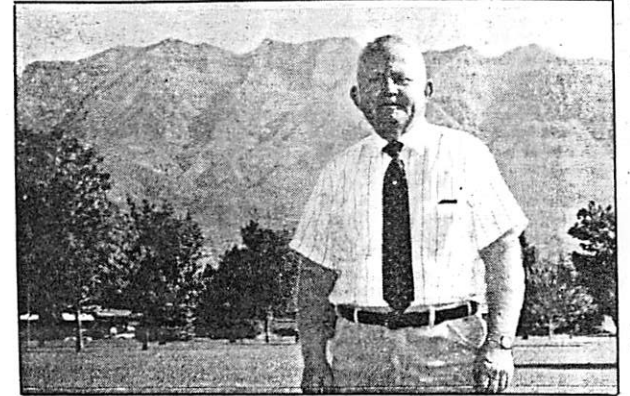
At that time, medallions were given to all who completed the climb.

"No one ever showed up. I guess they all gave up because of the terrible cold. I always wanted Dad to make an effort to get the medallion. We talked about it many times before he died, but he never made the effort," Gower said.

Mildred Gower, Rusty's wife, said if anyone has one of the old medallions, she'd like to have a copy made for her husband.

Thousands of people used to gather for the Timpanogos Hike, which was started in 1915 by E.L. "Timpanogos" Roberts, a BYU coach.

The annual hike was discontinued several years ago because of the detrimental effects on the mountain of having that many people make the annual trek.



Herald Photo/Jennifer Grigg

It's been more than 60 years since Rusty Gower climbed Mt. Timpanogos with his father, but the memory is still strong.

Gower said he spent "eight wonderful years in Provo." He recalls sleigh riding down the Orem hill and skating on Utah Lake, particularly when the lake froze over so hard that his father pulled the kids around the surface with his Model T Ford.

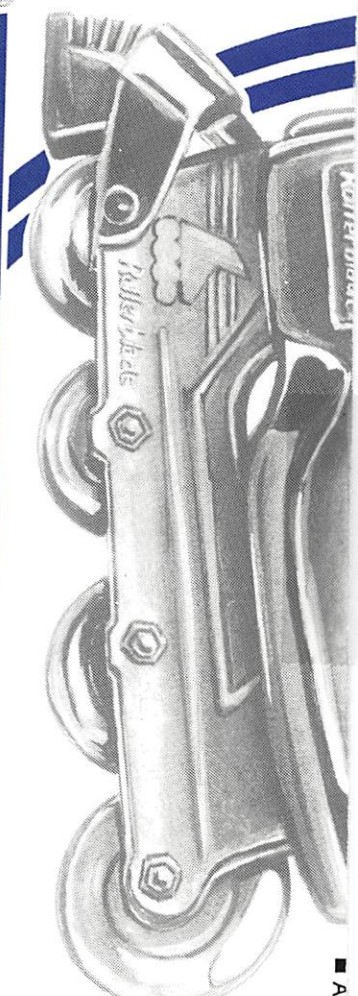
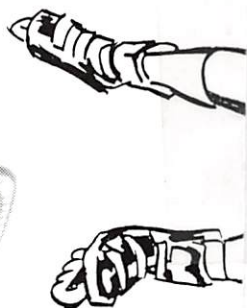
Gower moved from Provo with his family during the Great Depression. His father owned 13 acres of prime land in the river

bottoms, but lost the land when he couldn't sell it and was unable to pay the taxes.

Gower worked most of his life in El Paso, Tex., but moved to Thatcher after he retired.

He made his most recent trip to Provo en route to a family wedding in Idaho, but also to visit his hospitalized older brother in Payson. The brother died while he was attending the wedding.

"Neighbors" highlights local individuals who are interesting people but not necessarily newsmakers. If you know of someone with interesting hobbies or a unique story to tell, young or old, contact Daily Herald reporter Patrick G. Christian at 373-5050.



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